Post Gazette 10/13/75

Evidence Growing, Schweiker Says

More JFK Hearings Forecast

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WASHINGTON — A month into his personal investigation of alleged coverups of the John F. Kennedy assassination case, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker thinks enough evidence will be discovered to warrant public hearings.

At least three questions to be aired even before then are:

►Is the special investigation a waste of time?

►Is 12 years too late after the first investigation to reopen the case?

►Will public hearings be held?

The Pennsylvania Republican senator thinks he has the answer to the third question.

HE IS CONVINCED there will be sufficient new material uncovered for the Senate Select Committee on intelligence activities to hold public hearings.

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, promised willingness to go further into the subject if Schweiker and colleagues came up with the new material.

At the moment the special investigation is centered on the classified material withheld by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency in their probes of the slaying in Dallas, Tex., in 1963.

Schweiker's biggest discovery has been the discrepancy in the affidavit filed by the late J. Edgar Hoover in response to earlier inquiries about official cover-ups in the investigation.

"His affidavit was unique," Schweiker said.

"It did not begin with 'To my knowledge and belief.'

"It said, 'I, J. Edgar Hoover, caused all records to be searched.'"

"McCone (John A.), former director of the CIA, began his affidavit, 'To my personal knowledge.'"

Schweiker says the absence of personal knowledge from Hoover's testimony could be based on the special method used by the FBI to cover up documents it did not want disclosed at a later date.

"Such documents were stamped, 'Do Not File' and were left in the safe by special agents.

"It was a perfect cover-up," Schweiker said.

The material was not officially "filed" although it had circulated through FBI channels.

"This was a clear cut, obvious intent to skirt the requirements of the affidavit," the senator pointed out.

TAKING ANOTHER look at the information supplied by the nation's investigative agencies to the Warren Commission is not too late, even 12 years after the commission investigation, Schweiker feels.

"Details of the event are still etched in the minds of the people involved," Schweiker said.

The "Don't File" procedure used by the FBI may be just the beginning in a further series of revelations on the Kennedy killing, Schweiker indicated.

When he announced his special search last month, Schweiker said the credibility of the Warren Commission Report has been devastated.

He said the FBI had destroyed and suppressed evidence.